

## Message Text

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TO CINCPACREP GUAM PRIORITY

CDR BMDSCOM HUNTSVILLE AL//BMDSC-RA// PRIORITY

INFO CDR KMR KWAJALEIN MI//BMDSC-RK//BMDSC-RKE// PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 161158

CINCPACREP GUAM PASS TO HICOM AND SLNO

E.O. 11652:GDS-84

TAGS: PGOV, TQ

SUBJECT: COLLECTION OF BALLOT BOXES IN MARSHALLS

FOR HICOM FROM AMB ROSENBLATT

1. (U) FOLLOWING OUR TELEPHONE CONVERSATION ON FRIDAY, JUNE 16, I DISCUSSED THE MATTER OF REFERENDUM BALLOT BOX PICKUP IN THE MARSHALL ISLANDS WITH GENERAL MEYER, CDR BMDSCOM.

2. (C) TO RECAPITULATE THE BALLOT BOX PICKUP PROBLEM, AS I SEE IT: NOWHERE IS THE ISSUE IN THE JULY 12 REFERENDUM IN GREATER DOUBT THAN IN THE MARSHALL ISLANDS. LIKEWISE, THERE IS NO DISTRICT IN WHICH THE PHYSICAL OBSTACLES TO THE PROMPT COLLECTION OF BALLOT BOXES ARE MORE FORMIDABLE THAN IN THE WIDELY SCATTERED MARSHALL ISLANDS. THE DECISION TO COMMENCE COUNTING BALLOTS ONLY  
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AFTER ALL BALLOT BOXES HAVE BEEN COLLECTED AT DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS RESULTS IN A SITUATION IN WHICH TABULATION OF MARSHALLS IS SCHEDULED FOR JULY 26 AND NO ADVANCE INDICATIONS OF RESULT IS POSSIBLE. IT IS MY UNDERSTAND-

ING THAT THE DELAY IN COLLECTING AND, HENCE, TABULATING THE MARSHALLS BALLOTS RESULTS FROM THE FACT THAT

BALLOTS WILL BE COLLECTED BY TTG FIELD TRIP SHIP.

3. (C) THE CONTEMPLATED DELAY, WHILE ENTIRELY UNDER-  
STANDABLE UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES, PRODUCES AT LEAST  
FOUR SERIOUS PROBLEMS:

-----A. (C) UNTC VISITING MISSION CHAIRMAN, ROBIN  
BYATT (UK), HAS TAKEN EVERY OPPORTUNITY, INCLUDING UNTC  
DEBATE, TO EXPRESS HIS CONCERN ABOUT BALLOT BOX SECUR-  
ITY, SPECIFICALLY DURING THE PERIOD BETWEEN THE CASTING  
OF VOTES AND THEIR PICKUP. STATUS LNO 244 ADDRESSED  
THIS POINT AND A COPY THEREOF WAS GIVEN MR. BYATT  
DURING HIS VISIT WITH US JUNE 13. HE IS OBVIOUSLY  
STILL CONCERNED AND INTENDS TO DISCUSS THE SUBJECT FUR-  
THER WITH NEIMAN CRALEY.

-----B. (C) A CLOSE REFERENDUM RESULT IN THE MAR-  
SHALLS WILL PROBABLY INSPIRE CHARGES AND COUNTERCHARGES  
OF FRAUD. A FOCAL POINT OF SUCH CHARGES AND, HENCE, A  
POINT OF VULNERABILITY IN OVERALL USG OBJECTIVE OF OB-  
TAINING A DEFINITIVE, UNIVERSALLY RECOGNIZED RESULT, MAY  
WELL BE DELAYS IN PROCESS OF BALLOT-BOX COLLECTION AND  
ATTENDANT ACTUAL OR FANCIED OPPORTUNITY FOR TAMPERING.

-----C. (C) IN ORDER TO ACCOMMODATE OTHER IMPORTANT  
MICRONESIAN POLITICAL AND LEGISLATIVE EVENTS SCHEDULED  
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TO TAKE PLACE IN LATE AUGUST AND EXTENDING THROUGH THE  
NOVEMBER ELECTION PERIOD, JULY 31 IS STRONGLY PREFERRED  
BY ALL PARTIES AS THE DATE FOR COMMENCEMENT OF THE NEXT  
FORMAL ROUND OF STATUS NEGOTIATIONS. IF THE CURRENT  
MARSHALLS BALLOT COUNT SCHEDULE IS ADHERED TO, WE WILL  
HAVE THE REFERENDUM OUTCOME THERE ONLY FOUR DAYS BEFORE  
THE COMMENCEMENT OF NEGOTIATIONS. WHILE THIS SHOULD BE  
SUFFICIENT IN THE EVENT OF A MIPSC VICTORY, AN FSM  
CONSTITUTION VICTORY COULD PRODUCE A SERIOUS PROBLEM  
ON THE VERY EVE OF THE NEGOTIATIONS SINCE IT WOULD BE  
IMPORTANT TO ACHIEVE GENERAL ACQUIESCENCE IN NEW REPRESENTATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE MARSHALL ISLANDS.

-----D. (U) IT IS MY CURRENT PLAN PERSONALLY TO  
PRESENT TO THE MICRONESIAN COMMISSIONS THE US DRAFT  
WHICH WILL BE NEGOTIATED AT THE AUGUST ROUND. PRESENT  
PLANS CALL FOR ME TO BE IN MAJURO JULY 20-22. IT WOULD  
BE EXTREMELY USEFUL FOR ME TO KNOW THE RESULTS OF THE  
REFERENDUM DURING MY VISIT, SINCE THAT WILL ENABLE ME TO

KNOW WHETHER OR NOT I AM TO NEGOTIATE THE TEXT WITH THE  
MIPSC AND HOW TO PROCEED TO DEAL WITH THE MIPSC AND VOM

IN THE MATTER OF MARSHALLS REPRESENTATIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES AT THE AUGUST ROUND.

4. (U) I EXPLAINED TO GENERAL MEYER THAT THE PRIVATELY OWNED GRUMMAN GOOSE WHICH HAS HERETOFORE BEEN AVAILABLE TO THE TT GOVERNMENT FOR HIRE IS NO LONGER AVAILABLE AND THAT ARMY'S AIRCRAFT AT KMR APPEARED TO BE THE ONLY ONES AVAILABLE IN THE MARSHALLS TO ASSIST IN A US-TT GOVERNMENT PROGRAM TO ACCELERATE BALLOT BOX PICKUP THERE.

5. (U) GENERAL MEYER'S RESPONSE WAS ENTIRELY FORTHCOMING. HE AGREED THAT THERE WAS A SIGNIFICANT US INTEREST IN ACHIEVING AN EARLIER MARSHALLS TABULATION AND THAT HIS COMMAND WOULD MAKE AIRCRAFT AVAILABLE TO CONFIDENTIAL

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SUCH AN EFFORT. WHILE HIS COMMITMENT WAS UNCONDITIONAL, GENERAL MEYER THOUGHT THAT CONSIDERATION SHOULD BE GIVEN TO POSSIBILITY OF SOME LOCAL SUPPORT FROM THE NAVY, AND THAT THE TT GOVERNMENT SHOULD DISCUSS REIMBURSEMENT OF ATTENDANT COSTS. HE SUGGESTED THAT IMMEDIATE STEPS BE TAKEN TO ARRANGE THE NECESSARY DETAILS WITH CO, KMR.

6. (U) ALSO FOR CONSIDERATION, WE ARE INFORMED THAT THERE IS A SCHEDULED MAC FLIGHT FROM ENEWETAK ATOLL TO KWAJALEIN ON JULY 13TH. PERHAPS THIS REGULARLY SCHEDULED FLIGHT COULD BE USED TO TRANSPORT BALLOT BOXES FROM THAT ATOLL TO KWAJALEIN. FURTHER, WE ARE INFORMED THAT REVEREND KALAU'S PONAPE AIRLINES HAS RECENTLY FLOWN A PASSENGER OUT TO BIKINI ATOLL, AFTER REFUELING AT KWAJALEIN.

7. (U) WE UNDERSTAND THROUGH INFORMAL LIAISON THAT NAVY HAS NO LOCAL ASSETS THAT COULD ECONOMICALLY PROVIDE SUPPLEMENTAL SUPPORT.

8. (U) IN LIGHT OF THE FOREGOING I WOULD SUGGEST THAT THE TT GOVERNMENT AND/OR APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS OF THE REFERENDUM BOARD COMMUNICATE IMMEDIATELY WITH CO, KMR, FOR PURPOSE OF COORDINATING SUCH ASSISTANCE AS MAY BE AVAILABLE WITH THE OBJECTIVE OF PROMOTING MAXIMUM ACCELERATION OF MARSHALL ISLANDS BALLOT TABULATION.

9. (U) IN LIGHT OF GENERAL MEYER'S RESPONSE, I WOULD GREATLY APPRECIATE YOUR GIVING CONSIDERATION TO THE POSSIBILITY OF WORKING OUT A REIMBURSEMENT SCHEME WITH KMR. OTA ADVISES ME THAT FUNDS ARE VERY TIGHT BUT I BELIEVE

FACTORS DETAILED IN PARA 3, ABOVE, MAY WELL BE DEEMED CONFIDENTIAL

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SUFFICIENT TO JUSTIFY USE OF FUNDS APPROPRIATED BY THE  
COM FOR THE REFERENDUM OR POSSIBLY EVEN OTHER TTG FUNDS.  
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## Message Attributes

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